

A YOUNG NUN.

Within the convent grim and gray
An ivy grown,
She liveth on from day to day,
Life's monotone.

She leaveth oft the ancient pile
And passeth by,
Yet I have never seen her smile,
Nor caught her eye.

Her hands are very white and small,
And those who know
Say that on FEVER'S brow they fall
Like flakes of snow.

They say her voice is soft and sweet
In sorrow's ear,
Weeping the soul to Mary's feet
From doubt and fear.

Ah, me! And yet her youthful face
Clad though it be
In cold religion's saintly grace
Is fair to see.

Her eyes, so modestly cast down,
So introspect,
Could light a smile or arm a frown
With dire effect!

'Tis just such orbs that steepest burn
With passion's fire;
Can all the tears in Virtue's urn
Quite quench desire?

Her mouth is red, and shaped for bliss;
It seems a loss
That it should only kiss and kiss
Her rosary cross.

Oh, Little Nun! Thou art too fair!
It had sufficed
If one less sensuously rare
Had wed thy Christ.

The devil oft in form of saint
Entraps the eyes;
Thou art a soul without attain
In devil's guise!
—George Horton in Chicago Herald.

The Decoration of Prayer Books.

The prayer book that the Vanderbilts, the Astors and other families use for every day, that is to say every Sunday occasion, costs about \$50 each. Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes has just ordered two \$60 silver bound prayer books, and these will be given to her two daughters on the occasion of her silver wedding. Prayer books are used now a great deal for presents in society, and particularly for wedding presents. The really correct thing, it may be mentioned, is a small prayer book bound in white morocco, with elaborate silver trimmings. The resulting ornamentation is very rich and very handsome. The designs are either flowers or allegorical figures that have a quaint and medieval character. The work is open work that shows the cover of the book, and this supplies a very effective groundwork.

In some cases, however, the book is completely covered in silver and the silver is very artistically worked. There is still a slight demand for ivory covers, but the demand is so slight it is scarcely worth mentioning. The covers of the prayer book are embellished with a silver cross if the morocco is retained on one side and the bride's initials on the other. The books themselves are generally of English make and what is known as the Oxford edition. The type is beautiful and the binding is in the highest style known to the art.

In the original covering the Bible or prayer book is about the cheapest book of its quality that can be found. After its manipulation by a fashionable jeweler it is about the dearest. A pretty book mark usually accompanies the prayer book composed of three white ribbons. They are marked with a heart, a cross and an anchor, signifying, of course, faith, hope and charity.—New York World.

George William Curtis' Wife.

I very often see a matronly looking woman with a bright, intellectual face on Broadway, in the vicinity of Washington square. Her manner is simple and dignified, and altogether she is handsome and agreeable. She is rather old fashioned in her ideas of dress. Her gowns have all the quaintness of twenty-five or thirty years ago, and this rather pleasing effect is heightened by the manner in which she wears her hair, pressed flat on top and folded neatly down the sides of her head. Who is she? The wife of George William Curtis. She was a Miss Shaw before her marriage to the brilliant litterateur.

Mrs. Curtis leads a remarkably simple life at her pleasant home on Staten Island. The house is a neat frame cottage. It is surrounded by spacious grounds, in which are many fine old trees. A winding drive leads up from the gate to the house. The appointments of the interior betray at once the literary man and cultured scholar. The house is furnished in extreme good taste, and an air of refinement and culture is prevalent everywhere within. Mrs. Curtis is not known in the literary world except as the wife of Mr. Curtis. She very rarely goes into society, although she has friends by the score. Mrs. Curtis' pleasant and genial appearance does not indicate that she has found the companionship of a literary man irksome or un congenial.—New York Cor. Springfield (Mass.) Homestead.

Lillian Russell's Daughter.

Little Lillian Russell, aged 6, is a miniature copy of her beautiful mother. She has the same hair and eyes, but her complexion is tanned by the jolly outdoor life she has led. She was never separated from her mother until the last two years, and as a natural consequence of her trips on "the road" she has strong theatrical preferences.

She is now at the Sacred Heart academy, where her mother visits her every week, and takes her home occasionally for a few days. She considers life a dreary waste unless she attends a matinee frequently, and her interest in the play and criticism of the characters are extremely refreshing. She is a warm admirer of Little Lord Fauntleroy.—New York Letter.

Mourning Watches.

Black onyx has lately been utilized in making cases for mourning watches; they are usually open faced. Chains composed of oblong blocks of onyx joined by slender golden links accompany the watches.—Jewelers' Weekly.

Germany employs 5,500,000 women in industrial pursuits, England 4,000,000, France 3,750,000 and Austro-Hungary about the same number, and still women are the weaker sex, the lesser half, the clinging pensioners on man's beneficence.

Wealthy Women Beggars.

Several weeks ago two plainly dressed middle aged women appeared on the streets here as mendicants. Both had accoutrements, from which they pumped the most doleful specimens of harmony imaginable, and to the accompaniment they sang in high, cracked voices. With characteristic American careless generosity, the crowds contributed nickels and pennies by scores and the women reaped a liberal harvest.

Among the hundreds who saw the women here was a lady who recognized them. "I have seen them in New York, in Portland, Ore., and in Salt Lake City," she said. "They go to Salt Lake City every year to look after valuable property they have there. The truth is, I am told, they are wealthy. They saved several thousand dollars from their street earnings and invested the sum in real estate in Salt Lake City. Then the boom came on there and in a few months the women were rich. Now they have valuable investments in various cities, and their business judgement seems excellent. The great bulk of their wealth is in Utah, however, and their property there is growing more valuable every day.

"The women like their old profession of harping to the public, and stick to it as industriously as ever. They make a surprisingly large income from it and save a great deal every year, which goes to swell their investments. The possibility of these women following mendicancy as a profession, and prospering at it, is a striking comment on the unthinking, unquestioning generosity of the American people."—Indianapolis News.

Doesn't Give Leases Now.

"The giving of leases to all sorts of tenants is not so prevalent as it used to be," a real estate agent said. "Experience has shown that a tenant whose financial responsibility is limited to a moderate income cannot be held to the provisions of a lease, and that most tenants take advantage of this fact. The law of this state favors the married debtor who has no property but his household effects and is dependent on an income for his living. In fact, the owners of houses and flats rarely sue tenants who break their leases nowadays, and rarely recover anything when they do.

"I sued a man recently who had occupied one of my flats and had given it up a year before the lease expired. He did not even defend the suit. When I had him summoned in supplementary proceedings he testified that his income no more than paid his living expenses, and that his household effects belonged to his wife. He was released, and now I can whistle to recover my judgment. As a rule tenants want leases, but we don't give them if we can avoid doing so with ordinary apartments. We have come to the conclusion that only the owners are bound by the provisions of the leases, while the tenants do as they please about observing them."—New York Sun.

England's Taste in Smoking.

The English cigars are made of American tobacco, but fail in manipulation according to our standard. They look bright and "wooden" rather than like a natural leaf product. When cigars were introduced into England they all came from Cuba, and this being before the days of steam the goods were five or six weeks in transit, packed in the vessel's hold with no ventilation. The cigars being made in a humid climate, packed while fresh, fermented and generated a fungus (like mites in cheese), which tasted very bitter when smoked, utterly destroying their value. It was then discovered that by subjecting the cigars to the dry heat of a kiln the life of the fungus was destroyed and the cigar became smokable.

It is owing to this fact that the English insist on "dry" cigars to the present day, and pinch them to see if they crackle before they buy them. The cigar dealer knowing this mark a date on the bottom of cigar boxes when fresh stock is received, but the date marked is six months back, so a box marked Oct. 1, 1889, would be received by the dealer April 1, 1890.—New York Telegram.

The Boy Got It Afterward.

A certain Dexter man isn't a success as a mouser. Furthermore, he has a young son who has shown himself shockingly deficient in the way of compassion for the suffering. The other morning a mouse crept cautiously from the open door of the cellarway. The man of the house grabbed a broom, carefully poised his weapon and launched a mighty blow at the venturesome rodent. As he struck his toe caught in a rug and away he went, head first, bump, thump, bang to the bottom of the cellar stairs. As he was trying to remember whether 'twas last year or day before to-morrow he became conscious of a face peering over the door sill, a face squizzled with a twist of demoniac glee. A pause and then the shrill voice of his youngest chirped, "D'ye git 'im, d-a-a-d?"—Dexter Gazette.

A Magnetic Separator.

Among the numerous magnetic separators one of the most remarkable is that for the extraction of iron from the sea sand. It is stated that ordinary sea sand contains from 5 to 7 per cent. of iron, enough to give a large excess over cost of extraction. The machine consists of a cylinder, whose surface is composed of electro-magnets, revolving on the inside of an endless canvas belt. The sand is fed to the belt, and a spray of water separates the particles, the iron being retained by the powerful electro-magnets and carried off on the belt to a receptacle at the other end, while the sand falls into the trough below.—Exchange.

A Tomb Eighteen Hundred Years Old.

On opening a tomb in the cemetery of Kertch a sarcophagus has been discovered between 1,600 and 1,800 years old, very well preserved, and containing a coffin in which was the head of a girl whose hair was quite uninjured. Remains of textile fabrics and some vessels in clay and glass were found at the same time.—Odessa Messenger.

North Dalles to the Front.

The sale of lots continue to increase each day as contracts are closed out for improvements. In a few days active work will begin towards erecting several fine dwellings. Several prominent gentlemen of The Dalles and Portland will erect residences at North Dalles.

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